

GUILT

AND

FORGIVENESS

FORGET

*Regret nothing, not even the sins and failures,
When a man views earths' wonders from some mountain height
He does not spend his time in dwelling on the stones and stumbles,
The faints and failures that marked his upward path.
So with you. Breathe in the rich blessings of each new day,
Forget all that lies behind you.
Man is so made that he can carry the weight of twenty-four hours- no more.
Directly he weighs down with the years behind and the days ahead, his back
breaks.
I have promised to help you with the burden of today only.
The past I have taken from you and if you foolish hearts choose to gather again
that burden and bear it, then, indeed, you mock Me to expect Me to share it.
For weal or woe each day is ended. What remains to be lived, the coming
twenty-four hours, you must face as you awake.
A man on a march on earth carries only what he needs for that march.
Would you pity him if you saw him bearing too the overwhelming weight
Of the worn-out shoes and uniforms of past marches and years?
And yet, in the mental and spiritual life, man does these things.
Small wonder My poor world is heartsick and weary.
Not so must you act.*

GUILT - REGRET

GUILT: The Vicious Cycle of Guilt:

Conviction is from the Holy Spirit: the Spirit came to convict the world of sin and righteousness and to empower us to change.

Guilt is from the Accuser, Satan:

...Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

Rev. 12:10

Guilt makes you feel sick and disgusted with yourself, makes you feel unworthy to go to God. Thus keeps you separated from God

You have one purpose in life, to love God. You love that which you know, you love someone by spending time with them. When you feel guilty you cannot come to God, to know God, to love God, and to know the love God has for you

You cannot love yourself if you do not receive the love that God has for you. If you do not love yourself, you cannot love others. The first commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, body and strength, and the second is to love others with the love you have received from God:

"The second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Mat. 22:39

You feel guilty when either you have not confessed your sin, or you have sincerely confessed your sin, and God has forgiven you, but you will not forgive yourself and Satan keeps reminding you of it and accusing you of it.

Or, you have confessed your sin, but you know in your heart you are not ready to forsake it, but cling to it.

Guilt prevents you from going to God which empowers you to forsake the sin which holds you fast, and allows Him to fill you with His love which enables you to love others with His love.

Therefore I will judge you O house of Israel, each according to his conduct, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn away from all your transgressions, so that iniquity may not become a stumbling block to you.

Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit!

For why will you die, O house of Israel?

For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,

declares the Lord God. Therefore, repent and live.

Ezek. 18:30-32

**Repent therefore, and return, that your sins may be wiped away,
in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord
and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you...**

Acts 3:19-20

FORGIVENESS

Parable of the wicked slave, Matt. 18:21-35: Paraphrase:

The Master's slave owes him 10,000 talents, the slave begs for time to repay rather than be thrown into prison, the master forgives him the debt. The slave then finds a fellow slave who owes him a hundred denari and is unwilling to forgive him his debt but throws him into prison until he should pay back what was owed. When another slaves see this, he goes and tells the Master, the Master comes to the forgiven slave and says:

**You wicked slave,
I forgave you all that debt
because you entreated me.
Should you not also have had
mercy on your fellow slave
even as I had mercy on you?
And his lord, moved with anger,
handed him over to the torturers
until he should repay all that was owed him.**

Then the word says:

**"So shall My heavenly Father also do to you if each of you does not
forgive his brother from your heart."**

Satan is the torturer, he and his demons...

I have always thought of the torturers as the demons in hell, but when I was in Colorado a while ago a friend of ours shared with us a story about a woman he once prayed with who was demon possessed, and his prayers were not working as he was praying for her and the Lord brought the above scripture to mind, and he began asking the woman if there was anyone she had not forgiven; and then he started asking her to forgive them and every time she forgave someone a demon came out of her.

Because forgiveness was the paramount theme of Jesus' coming to earth, it is a huge concept in scripture. When God forgives us and we don't forgive others, including ourselves, God allows us to be held captive or oppressed or in bondage to Satan and his demons....

This has become a huge paradigm shift in my thinking and more importantly in my praying with others. When I pray for them, I also ask them whether there is anyone they are bitter towards, or have not forgiven. I have yet to ask that question and not have

an affirmative; there has never been anyone I have prayed with who does not have unforgiveness in their hearts, either towards others or towards themselves.

How amazing it has been to explain to them this concept of bondage to the demons, both for themselves and for those they have not forgiven, and have them readily and eagerly, and with pure and sincere hearts, pray for forgiveness.

The word of God says:

**For if you forgive men for their transgressions,
Your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
But if you do not forgive men,
Then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.**

Mat. 6:14-15

**Never take your own revenge beloved,
But leave room for the wrath of God,
For it is written,
"Vengeance is Mine, I will repay", says the Lord.**

Rom. 12:19

Since that time, and in all my further thinking on this subject, I have come to believe that when we pray with others and ask them to forgive their transgressors, and/or themselves, when they forgive them, then we need to take one more step, we need to also ask them to pray *for* those people, or for themselves if they are the one they had not forgiven.:

**Love your enemies,
Do good to those who hate you,
Bless those who curse you
and pray for those who mistreat you.**

Lk. 6:28

We don't always understand such scriptures, but our job is not to always understand, but to *do*, not to question "why" but simply to obey and watch the power of God be made manifest in our lives and in our situations.

Rightly has it been said:

Bitterness and unforgiveness
is a poison pill we swallow
hoping someone else will die.

However, this is really just partially true, for when I went back to Colorado the next week and told our friend that I had learned so much about praying by his story of the demon possessed lady, he told me another story.

His father in law, a pastor, was praying with a lady he didn't know, who asked for prayer about something. While he was praying for her he received a word of knowledge

from the Lord that she had been a victim of incest by her father. When she stopped praying he said to her, "Have you forgiven your father?" and she started sobbing and said, "I could never forgive my father" and he said, "If I pray for you that Jesus would give you the ability, and desire, to forgive your father would you do it?" and she said "yes". He prayed and she went home. In the night the Holy Spirit came upon her and she forgave her father. Within the hour her sister from another state called her and said that their father, who had been in a coma for years, had just come out of the coma...

As soon as he told me that, the scripture, that previously had always been a mystery to me, came to mind:

**Truly I say to you,
Whatever you bind on earth
Shall be bound in heaven,
Whatever you loose on earth
Shall be loosed in heaven**
Mat. 18:18

So, while the poison pill we swallow, of bitterness and unforgiveness, indeed poisons us, it can also poison the ones we do not forgive.

This brings to mind a scripture in 2 Corinthians which now is so much clearer to me:

**Sufficient for such a one is this punishment
which was inflicted by the majority,
so that on the contrary you should rather forgive
and comfort him, lest somehow such a one be overwhelmed
by excessive sorrow. Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for
him. For to this end also, I wrote that I might put you to the test,
whether you are obedient in all things.
But whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for in deed what I
have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in
the presence of Christ, in order that no advantage be taken of us by
Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.**
2 Cor. 2:5-11

**Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass,
You who are spiritual,
Restore such a one in a Spirit of gentleness;
Each one looking to yourself,
Lest you too be tempted.**
Gal. 6:1

**And be kind to one another, tender-hearted
Forgiving each other
Just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.**

Eph. 4:32

It also makes me understand the scripture of Mat.5:23-24:

**If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar,
And there remember that your brother has something against you,
leave your offering there before the altar,
And go your way;
First be reconciled to your brother,
And then come and present your offering.**

If we know of anyone who has anything against us, we should ask for forgiveness from them, that they might release us from bondage to their unforgiveness.

**And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job
When he prayed for his friends,
And the Lord increased all that Job had twofold.**
Job 42:10

But once we have sincerely asked for forgiveness and if they do not forgive us, we are still released for Roman's says:

**If possible, so far as it depends on you,
Be at peace with all men.**
Ro. 12:18

This concept, of making peace before we go to prayer has me thinking about the belief that if we do not forgive, not only are we not forgiven, but if we are not forgiven and if it is a commandment to forgive and we are disobedient to that commandment, then it is sin in us and Isaiah says that our 'sins have made a separation between us and God, so that He does not hear our prayers.

**Behold, the Lords' hand is not so short
That it cannot save;
Neither is His ear so dull
That it cannot hear.
But your iniquities have made a
Separation between you and your God.
And your sins have hidden His face from you,
So that He does not hear. Is. 59:1-2**

God commands us to forgive,
When we do not forgive we are sinning,
Our sin makes a separation between us and our God
So that He does not hear our prayers.

I wonder how many prayers go unanswered, because they are not even heard, because of this critical concept of forgiveness. How amazing! How tragic!

**And be kind to one another,
Tender-hearted
Forgiving each other
Just as God in Christ
also has forgiven you.**

Eph. 4:32

**And when you were dead in your transgressions
And the uncircumcision of your flesh,
He made you alive together with Him,
Having forgiven us all our transgressions...**

Col. 3:13

**For if you forgive men for their transgressions,
Your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
But if you do not forgive men,
Then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.**

Mat. 6:14-15

**And whenever you stand praying,
Forgive, if you have anything against anyone;'
So that your Father also who is in heaven
may forgive you your transgressions.
But if you do not forgive,
Neither will your Father who is in heaven
forgive your transgressions.**

Mk. 11:25-26

**To sum up,
All of you be
Harmonious,
Sympathetic,
Brotherly,
Kindhearted,
And humble in spirit;
Not returning evil for evil
Or insult for insult,
But giving a blessing instead;
For you were called
For the very purpose
That you might inherit a blessing.
For,**

**Let him who means to love life
And see good days
Refrain his tongue from evil,
And his lips from speaking guile.
And let him turn away from evil
And do good;
Let him seek peace and pursue it.
For the eyes of the Lord
Are upon the righteous
And His ears attend to their prayer
But the face of the Lord
Is against those who do evil.**
1 Peter 3:8-12

How many blessings do we prevent God from bestowing on us because of our unrepentant and unforgiving hearts? How sad!!

**Your iniquities have turned these away,
And your sins have withheld good from you.**
Jer. 5:25

I pray that this concept of forgiveness would help all of us personally, to:

- 1) Think about and search our hearts for anyone we have not forgiven in this life, including ourselves.
- 2) Pray out loud, (for Satan has to hear us for he cannot read our minds) and forgive anyone we have not forgiven, including ourselves. That we might be released from captivity and torture by Satan and his devils, and that by doing so, we might release whomever we have held captive, because of their sin against us, by not loosening them here on earth that they might be loosed in heaven.
- 3) Then pray *for* these persons, or ourselves, in obedience to the Word of God:

**But I say to you who hear,
Love your enemies,
Do good to those who hate you
Bless those who curse you
And pray for those who mistreat you.**
Luke 6:27-28

Jesus said to forgive "as I have forgiven you." Would we want God to forgive us and then not have anything to do with us?

... to ask for forgiveness from someone you have hurt, without saying you are sorry, without repenting of what you did or said, and without restoration, or reconciliation, really means nothing.

Christ forgave us and then reconciled us, restored communion and friendship with us.

Reconciliation: to restore to friendship, harmony or communion.

I know that there have been many injustices done to children, many abuses, physical verbal and sexual. And I know that God would not want us putting ourselves in any unsafe places or relationships... so in those cases, you can pray for those people without having a relationship with them. However, letting them know that you have forgiven them would be an incredible gift to them.

I have heard pastors and counselors say over and over that we can **forgive but not forget**. When Jesus said, "forgive as I have forgiven you" I believe that He forgets our sins... the word says,

...for My own sake; I will not remember your sins." (Is. 43:25)

For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more..."(Jer. 31:34)

It says that He has

...thrown our sins into the depths of the sea; (Micah 7:18-19)

and that

**"As far as the east is from the west,
So has He removed our transgressions from us."
(Ps. 103:12)**

I know the brain well enough to know that as you re-think old injustices, you reinforce the pathways of the brain to remember them. In forgiveness we do not bring them to mind any more, and I believe that in time we actually do forget them if we have truly forgiven them.

**Do not call to mind the former things
Or ponder the things of the past.
Behold, I will do something new,
Now it will spring forth;
Will you not be aware of it?
I will even make a roadway in the wilderness,
Rivers in the desert.
Is. 43:18-19**

...Escape for your life!

**Do not look behind you,
Escape to the mountains,
Lest you be swept away!**

Gen. 19:17

**Set your mind on the things above,
Not on the things that are on earth
For you have died and your life is hidden
With Christ in God.**

Col. 3:3

**Finally, brethren, whatever is true,
Whatever is honorable, whatever is right,
Whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,
Whatever is of good repute,
If there is any excellence
And if anything worthy of praise,
Let your mind dwell on these things.**

Phil. 4:8

Other scriptures on forgiveness:

**Then Peter came and said to Him,
"Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him?
Up to seven times?"**

**Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times,
But up to seventy times seven.**

Mat. 18:21-22

**For if you forgive men for their transgressions,
Your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
But if you do not forgive men,
Then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.**

Mat. 6:14-15

**Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him,
And if he repents forgive him.
And if he sins against you seven times a day
And returns to you seven times,
Saying, "I repent" forgive him.**

Luke 17:3-4

And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job

**When he prayed for his friends, and
The Lord increased all that Job had twofold.**

Job. 42:10

**And when you stand praying, forgive,
If you have anything against anyone;
So that your Father also who is in heaven
May forgive you your transgressions.
[But if you do not forgive,
Neither will your Father who is in heaven
Forgive your transgressions.]**

Mark 11:25-26

**You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge
Against the sons of your people,
But you shall love your neighbor as yourself;
I am the Lord.**

Lev. 19:18

ON FORGIVING YOURSELF:

I was reading the psalms yesterday morning and in Psalm 18, David says:

**The Lord has rewarded me
According to my righteousness;
According to the cleanness of my hands
He has recompensed me.
For I have kept the ways of the Lord,
And have not wickedly departed from my God.
For all His ordinances were before me,
And I did not put away His statutes from me.
I was also blameless with Him,
And I kept myself from my iniquity.
Therefore the Lord has recompensed me
According to my righteousness,
According to the cleanness of my hands in His eyes.**

Ps. 18:20-24

As I was reading this, I thought, surely this must have been written before David's sin with Bathsheba, so I went back to 2 Sam. 22 where this same psalm is written and realized that David is saying this after his sin with Bathsheba. I was amazed at how redeemed and restored David not only *was*, but *felt* before His Lord. I was humbled and actually brought to tears that God's forgiveness and love for us is so complete. It brought

to mind a number of scriptures that I know, but often forget... I find it interesting that the last verse here in Ps. 18 says, "**According to the cleanness of my hands IN HIS EYES.**" I find often that we are more clean before God than we are before ourselves, and how interesting since all sin is: "**against Thee only have I sinned and done what is evil in Thy sight.**" I am in awe of the love that God has for us, which we do not have for even ourselves let alone our brothers and sisters. I pray that I may learn that kind of love.

Some words of Truth for us to remember when we have sinned against the Lord and have truly repented and turned away from our sin and come home to God.

Is. 43:25

**I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions
For My own sake;
And I will not remember your sins**

Jer. 31:34

**And they shall not teach again,
Each man his neighbor and each man his brothers,
Saying "know the Lord" for they shall all know Me,
From the least of them to the greatest of them,"
Declares the Lord,
"For I will forgive their iniquity,
and their sin I will remember no more."**

Isaiah: 1:18:

**Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord,
Though your sins are as scarlet,
They will be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They will be like wool.**

Ps. 32:1-5:

**How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
Whose sin is covered!
How blessed is the man
To whom the Lord does not impute iniquity,
And in whose spirit there is no deceit.
When I kept silent about my sin,
My body wasted away through my groaning all day long.
For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me.
I acknowledged my sin to Thee,
And my iniquity I did not hide;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;
And Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin.**

Ps. 103:8-12:

The Lord is compassionate and gracious,

Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.
He will not always strive with us,
Nor will He keep His anger forever.
He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth.
So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has He removed our transgressions from us.
Just as a father has compassion on His children,
So the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.
For He Himself knows our frame;
He is mindful that we are but dust.

Is. 55:6-7:

Seek the Lord while He may be found,
Call upon Him while He is near,
Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
And let him return to the Lord,
And He will have compassion on him
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.

1 John 1:7:

...but if we walk in the light
As He Himself is in the light,
We have fellowship with one another
And the blood of Jesus His Son
Cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:9:

If we confess our sins,
He is faithful and righteous
To forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ps. 130:3-4:

If Thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with Thee,
That Thou mayest be feared.

Eph. 2:8-9:

For by grace we have been saved,
Through faith; and that not of yourselves,

It is the gift of God;

Mi. 7:18-19:

**Who is a God like Thee, who pardons iniquity
And passes over the rebellious act
Of the remnant of His possession?
He does not retain His anger forever,
Because He delights in unchanging love.
He will again have compassion on us;
He will tread our iniquities under foot.
Yes, Thou wilt cast all their sins
Into the depths of the sea.**

Job 22:21-28

**Yield now and be at peace with Him;
Thereby good will come to you.
Please receive instruction from His mouth,
And establish His words in your heart.
If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored;
If you remove unrighteous far from your tent,
And place your gold in the dust,
And the gold of Ophir among the stones of the brooks.
Then the Almighty will be your gold
And choice silver to you.
For then you will delight in the Almighty,
And lift up your face to God.
You will pray to Him, and He will hear you;
And you will pay your vows.**

Ezek. 33:19:

**But when the wicked turns from his wickedness
And practices justice and righteousness,
He will live by them.**

Ezek. 33:15-16

**If a wicked man restores a pledge,
Pays back what he has taken by robbery,
Walks by the statutes which ensure life
Without committing iniquity,
He will surely live; he shall not die.
None of his sins that he has committed
Will be remembered against him.
He has practiced justice and righteousness;
He will surely live.**

Psalm 130:

**Out of the depths I have cried to Thee, O Lord.
Lord, hear my voice!
Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications
If Thou Lord, shouldst mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with Thee,
That Thou mayest be feared.
I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait,
And in His word do I hope.
My soul waits for the Lord
More than the watchman for the morning
Indeed more than the watchman for the morning.
O Israel, hope in the Lord;
For with the Lord there is lovingkindness,
And with Him is abundant redemption.
And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

Ezek. 36:35-36

**And they will say, "This desolate land has become like the
Garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate, and ruined
cities are fortified and inhabited.
Then the nations that are left round about you will know
that I, the Lord, have rebuilt the ruined places and
planted that which was desolate;
I, the Lord, have spoken and will do it.**

Job. 42:10

**And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job
When he prayed for his friends,
And the Lord increased all that Job had twofold.**

FORGIVENESS

How Long?

Mary was 11 years old when she was sold into sex slavery. The evidence seems overwhelming that her mother is the one who sold her. Everyday for months she was drugged, tied up, and raped. This week she wrote a letter to her mother in prison, and she's given us permission to share it with you.

*Dear Mom,
How are you? I'm very fine because I stay in a very
good center. There are many skills to learn here. They
teach me English, computer, music, Khmer. I will
study hard to look after you when I grow up. Because
of me you stay in the prison and are very miserable. I*

am sorry. Mom, I miss you very much. Now I believe in Jesus and I pray for you in prison.

I pray that you will believe in Jesus like me. If you believe in Jesus, he will help you. Please do not be hopeless. Do not give up until you are free.

When you get my letter please tell grandmother, daddy, and brothers not to worry about me. I want you to pray to God and ask him whatever you want. If you do not get what you ask him for, please try and continue to ask him until you receive everything you ask for. Don't forget to follow my example when you pray. Close your eyes and think of God and ask him for what you want.

God bless you,

Mary

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Romans 5:5

WHATEVER YOU BIND ON EARTH... Concept from Anne Graham Lotz' book called **Why? Trusting God When You Don't Understand,**

Forgiving Someone-

Matthew 16:19 Whatever YOU shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever YOU shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

There must be something very important that we must actively DO (the unbinding), so that heaven is loosed. In context, Jesus has just told Peter that by his confessing that Jesus is the Christ, Jesus is now free to give him the keys of the kingdom. In other words, to open the flood gate of heaven and unbind what the enemy has kept bound. Peter's belief set in motion kingdom activity. Peter's obedience to believe set in motion kingdom activity. Same with us.

John 20:22,23 Receive the Holy Spirit. If YOU forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if YOU retain the sins of any, they have been retained.

This is not saying that we, as mere sinful people, have the power to forgive sins; only God can forgive sinners. But we, as representatives and followers of Christ, must have some kind of effect over whether someone is bound or set free. Forgiven or held captive. Sins being retained or not retained. WE must forgive their sins against us so that what is bound in heaven can be loosed in heaven for kingdom gain.

John 11: 1-44 Martha, Mary and Lazarus

Martha and those she was with were told to first "Remove the stone." The stone was the wall preventing access to raising Lazarus from the dead. Only Jesus can bring someone back to life, but WE are to remove the stones in their way. That large stone kept Martha separated from Lazarus, yes. But it also kept Lazarus separated from Martha.

Unforgiveness is a large stone; a roadblock that binds what is still bound in heaven. It is by OUR obedience that others can begin to be set free. It is when WE remove the stone that the man who once was dead can come to life again.

Once the stone was rolled away, and Jesus Christ cried out, "Lazarus, come forth!"

Lazarus was, at that point, alive again. But he was still unable –completely unable – to be walking unbound until Jesus said these amazing words in John 11:44

"Unbind him and let him go."

Lazarus who had died (and was bound in grave clothes) came out of the tomb still bound hand and foot with wrappings; and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Lazarus could not fully live, though alive, until OTHERS unbound him and set him free.

It makes perfect sense that a *dead man* is wrapped in grave clothes and is sealed in a tomb. But it is senseless to have an *alive man* wrapped in grave clothes, trying to get on with life, restricted and hindered by the obstacles of claustrophobic dead man's wrappings.

This shows, to me, the effect forgiveness has on ourselves (because we must be obedient to do what Christ asks us to do) as well as the effect forgiveness has on that other person who needs our forgiveness.

He/she is actually still bound hand and foot with wrappings – stuck – until we unbind him. His/her face is actually wrapped in cloth so that, though, alive, he cannot see clearly. WE have, in our power, through obeying Christ's words to turn the other cheek and to forgive seventy times seven, the ability and the command to "UNBIND HIM AND LET HIM GO."

I believe very much that when we forgive, it sets US free. We are set free, unbound now, from being held captive by bitterness and stuffed down unforgiveness. That is removing the stone.

But many of us may not fully see God's unbinding in heaven because we have not helped that person who transgressed against us to get unwrapped of their grave clothes.

Pray and consider this: Unbind him and let him go.

ANOTHER THOUGHT ON UNBINDING:

I woke up a number of times last night with concern for a friend of mine. The third time I woke up I heard the words "Unbind her and set her free"

I realized that when we **worry**, are **anxious** or **fearful** for ourselves, or others, we have bound them and they are bound in heaven, that means heaven is limited in its ability to release the person or answer our prayers. This is why the Word commands us not to do these things:

1) IT IS A COMMAND TO NOT WORRY:

Matthew 6:25

For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

Matthew 6:27-18

And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin,

Matthew 6:31:

Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?'

Matthew 6:33-34

**But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (the unbinding)
So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."**

2) IT IS A COMMAND TO NOT BE ANXIOUS:

Philippians 4:6

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication

**WITH THANKGIVING (the unbinding)
Let your requests be made known to God,
And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding
Will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

3) IT IS A COMMAND TO NOT FEAR:

**Do not fear for I am with you
Do not anxiously look about you
For I am your God
I will strengthen you
Surely I will help you
Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.**

(Unbind yourself and others by giving yourself and others to God)

When I worry about someone, or myself, and get anxious or fearful, I am binding that person, or myself, to my fears, anxiety and worry, when I pray and give them/myself to God, I unbind them/me, and then we are unbound in heaven, and now God is free to heal them/me and do His will on earth.

“Unbind him and let him go”

Wounds

The Lord revealed to me another wonderful shadow from the apples.

Yesterday as I was cutting up apples for Jenny and Christy's lunches, I found out that when these apples develop a soft spot, that the ruin of the fruit is not just local, but that the flavor is affected in quite a large area out from the visibly bruised part. I found that, literally, in one small bruise, smaller than a dime, I would have to remove almost a quarter of the apple.

I started thinking about what shadow the Lord was teaching me and He brought Brandon to mind. Brandon has just been in a car accident in which his girlfriend was killed. I thought about the "bruise" or wound, that Brandon has right now, and about the wounds we all have- and I thought about the apple and that if I did not radically remove every trace of the wound, it would eventually destroy the whole apple. I began to think of the examples in the scriptures of wounds that others have had. The key is in forgiveness, if we can't forgive ourselves or others for the painful things in our lives we will be destroyed. We must forgive and move on.

I thought of Moses who murdered the Egyptian and had to flee for his life. But, when we look further into Moses' life, we see that it was after this that Moses became a powerful instrument of God. Although I am sure that he must have regretted this murder terribly, he forgave himself, and was able to move on to what the Lord had in mind for him to do.

I looked at Paul, who, prior to his conversion, persecuted and was responsible for the death of many Christians. And yet I see that in order for him to be used by God, he too had to forgive himself and receive forgiveness from the Lord.. Look at how the Lord then used Paul to glorify His name.

Peter denied Christ three times, but when he received forgiveness from Jesus and forgave himself, he put the wound behind and became a pillar of the church.

David not only was an adulterer, but had a man murdered in order to cover his sin, and then, as a consequence, was responsible for the death of his son-but he accepted the consequences and discipline, repented and received the forgiveness of God. And putting the wound behind, anointed himself, worshipped the Lord and went into Bathsheba and conceived Solomon.

Paul said:

**Brethren, I do not regard myself
As having laid hold of it yet;
But one thing I do;
Forgetting what lies behind
And reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize
of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

Phil 3:13-14

**And it came about
When they had brought them outside,
That one said,
"Escape for your life!
Do not look behind you,
And do not stay anywhere in the valley,
Escape to the mountains,
Lest you be swept away." Gen. 19:17**

**Do not call to mind the former things,
Or ponder the things of the past.
Behold I will do something new
Now it will spring forth;
Will you not be aware of it?
I will even make a roadway in the
wilderness,
Rivers in the desert.**

Isaiah 43:18-19

The key to each one of these men being used so powerfully by God, was their forgiving themselves, receiving the forgiveness of God, surrendering to the Lordship of Christ, who, then washed away their sins and used them as instruments of righteousness for His purposes and His glory.

**And we know that God causes all things
To work together for good
To those who love God,
To those who are called
According to His purposes.**

Romans 8:28

In and of ourselves, it would be impossible to eradicate some of the terrible wounds which come into our lives. Time, does not "heal all wounds", wounds need to be exposed to the Light, they need to be faced and there needs to be the healing balm of forgiveness applied to them that they might no longer hurt to touch, but might heal by the healing Power of Jesus Christ, who has forgiven us that we might be able to forgive ourselves and others. Then our bruises turn into scars, and scars do not hurt to touch, but become a part of our story; and we all have a story.

"With God all things are possible", and the Lord can turn any and all wounds into scars